

Sartre
1-1-1-1
APPEAL

I ADDRESS THIS URGENT APPEAL TO THE JAPANESE PEOPLE, WITH REGRET THAT I MUST SEND IT FROM SO FAR AND BECAUSE IT CONCERNS SUCH A SAD AND DEPLORABLE EVENT.

I KNOW THAT THE PROGRESSIVE PEOPLE OF SOUTH KOREA LEAD A VERY HARD ^{fight} ~~FIGHT~~ AGAINST THE REPRESSIVE ^{policies} ~~POLITICS~~ OF PARK CHUNG-HEE IN ORDER TO RESTORE FREEDOM. I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS VIA THIS APPEAL MY PROFOUND AND WARM SOLIDARITY WITH THIS STRUGGLE.

IN FRANCE, OUR GOVERNMENT IN THE PAST HAS TRAGICALLY REPRESSED THE GROUPS OF NATIONAL LIBERATION IN NORTH AFRICA AND IN INDOCHINA AND NOW PRACTICES A POLICY OF OPPRESSION TOWARD THE IMMIGRANT WORKERS ~~AND~~ AND MINORITIES INSIDE OUR COUNTRY. FOR THESE REASONS, I THINK I CAN SAY THAT I ~~AM~~ UNDERSTAND UNDER WHAT DISTRESSING CIRCUMSTANCES THE KOREAN ~~PEOPLE~~ PEOPLE LIVE.

IT IS A WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT KIM CHI-HA IS ONE OF THE GREATEST NATIONAL POETS - HIS NAME IS FOREVER INSCRIBED IN THE HISTORY OF THE ^{LIBERATION} OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE. IN SPITE OF HIS YOUTH, HE HAS ENDURED ALL ^{the suffering} ~~THAT~~ A HUMAN BEING CAN ENDURE ~~IN SUFFERING~~ THROUGHOUT AN ENTIRE LIFETIME DURING THIS PAST TEN-YEAR STRUGGLE AGAINST POWER: STUDENT

CONFRONTATION WITH THE POLICE, IMPRISONMENT, SICKNESS, DISILLUSIONMENT, REINCARCERATION, TORTURE, AND THE PERMANENT RISK OF LOSING HIS LIFE.

WE CANNOT ALLOW THE ASSASSINATION OF KIM CHI-HA, WHO HAS WRITTEN HIS POEMS AT THE RISK OF HIS LIFE AND WHO REPRESENTS ONE OF THE MAJOR FORCES IN THE UNRELENTING STRUGGLE TO REINSTATE FREEDOM IN SOUTH KOREA.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO SAVE KIM CHI-HA? SOUTH KOREA AND FRANCE ARE FAR FROM EACH OTHER, BUT I AM AWARE OF THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP EXISTING BETWEEN JAPAN AND KOREA. ALTHOUGH THE TWO PEOPLES ARE HISTORICALLY AND GEOGRAPHICALLY CLOSE, JAPANESE IMPERIALISM HAS MADE THEM "ENEMY-BROTHERS" FOR THE LAST HALF CENTURY. AND THE PEOPLE WHO HOLD POWER IN JAPAN AND IN KOREA ARE UNITING THEIR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP ~~MUTUAL~~ MUTUAL ECONOMIC INTEREST AIMED AT OPPRESSING THE TWO PEOPLES. I THINK AND HOPE THIS POLICY SHOULD, ON THE CONTRARY, LEAD TO A GREATER SOLIDARITY BETWEEN JAPANESE AND KOREANS.

I ASK ALL ~~JAPANESE~~ JAPANESE PEOPLE IN SEARCH OF FREEDOM AND TRUE DEMOCRACY TO ORGANIZE A STRONG MOVEMENT ~~2~~ TO OBTAIN THE LIBERATION OF KIM CHI-HA, THIS INDOMITABLE KOREAN POET. THE EMERGENCE OF DEMOCRACY, SO ARDENTLY DESIRED BY THE KOREAN PEOPLE, DEPENDS ON THE OUTCOME OF THIS STRUGGLE.

Sartre

3-3-3-3

WITH CERTITUDE OF THE FINAL VICTORY OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE,
I HOPE THE MOVEMENT TO SAVE KIM CHI-HA WILL BE LARGELY
SUSTAINED IN JAPAN AND WILL BECOME STRONGER AND STRONGER.

LET US WORK TOGETHER.

JEAN PAUL SARTRE

translation:
Sagant Harwood
June 16, 1975
SF, California